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INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/SG 2004/000363	International filing date (day/month/year) 4 November 2004 (04.11.2004)	Priority Date (day/month/year) 5 November 2003 (05.11.2003)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC ⁷ : A47B 88/10		
Applicant LAM HARN LIAN		

<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examination Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>5</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>1</u> sheets.</p>	
<p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the opinion</p> <p>II. <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III. <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV. <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII. <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>	

Date of submission of the demand 03.06.2005	Date of completion of this report 9 November 2005 (09.11.2005)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/AT Austrian Patent Office Dresdner Straße 87 A-1200 Vienna Facsimile No. 1/53424/200	Authorized officer VELINSKY-HUBER I. Telephone No. 1/53424/371

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/SG 2004/000363

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

☐ the international application as originally filed

☒ the description:

pages 1-7, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☒ the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages 1, filed with the letter of 3 June 2005 (03.06.2005).

☒ the drawings:

pages 1-4, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

☐ the sequence listing part of the description:

pages _____, as originally filed

pages _____, filed with the demand

pages _____, filed with the letter of _____.

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).

☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).

☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

☐ contained in the international application in printed form.

☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.

☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.

☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.

☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages _____.

☒ the claims, Nos. 3-6.

☐ the drawings, sheets/fig _____.

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as „originally filed“ and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

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V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)

Claims 1-4

YES

Claims ----

NO

Inventive step (IS)

Claims 1-4

YES

Claims ----

NO

Industrial applicability (IA)

Claims 1-4

YES

Claims. ----

NO

Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)

The following documents have been cited in the Search Report:

D1: US 4955160 A

D2: US 2003197452 A

As to claim 1, document D1 discloses a drawer guide rail assembly mounted for a guided and stabilized movement with respect to a furniture member.

The rail assembly comprises a fixed guide (supporting rail 3) attached to an inner sidewall of the furniture member having at least one running surface (flanges 7). It further comprises an intermediate pull out channel (pull out rail 2) sliding back and forth relative to the fixed guide, the upper surface of the intermediate pull out channel (cf. fig. 3) providing a second running surface and housing a first roller bearing unit (carriage 4, rollers 5, 6). It further includes an outer pull out channel (drawer rail 12) for attachment to the undersurface of a drawer sliding back and forth relative to the intermediate pull out channel which houses a second roller bearing (carriage 15, rollers 13). Stabilizing means (cf. flanges 9) are formed at the intermediate pull out channel and are positioned between the intermediate and the outer pull out channel and the first and the second roller bearing prevent lateral movement within the guide rails (cf. column 3, lines 36 - 40 and 56 - 58).

Again with regard to claim 1, also document D2 refers to a drawer guide rail assembly mounted for a guided and stabilized movement with respect to a furniture member.

Also this prior art assembly comprises a fixed guide (track 10) attached to an inner sidewall of the furniture member having at least one running surface (guide portion 11). It further comprises an intermediate pull out channel (inner slide rail 30) sliding back and forth relative to the fixed guide, the upper surface (top 31) of the intermediate pull out channel providing a second running surface and housing a first roller bearing unit (roller seat 40). It further includes an outer pull out channel (outer slide rail 20) for attachment to the undersurface of a drawer sliding back and forth relative to the intermediate pull out channel which houses a second roller bearing (roller seat 50). Stabilizing means (cf. horizontal lateral upper flanges on the inner slide rail 30) are formed at the intermediate pull out channel and are positioned between the intermediate and the outer pull out

Supplemental Box

(To be used when the space in any of the preceding boxes is not sufficient)

Continuation of: Box V (page 1)

channel and the first and the second roller bearing prevent lateral movement within the guide rails (cf. fig. 1).

None of the documents anticipates a detachable, i.e. separate, stabilizing means that includes a shoulder which is horizontally extending from each side of the stabilizing means to be fitted with the second roller bearing for guiding and stabilizing the movements of the outer pull out channel.

Therefore the subject matter of the amended claim 1 is new and inventive with respect to the prior art.

Further none of the documents discloses detachable stabilizing means being formed from a metal sheet, having a width wider than the width of the intermediate pull out channel and including a protrusion at the upper end according to amended claims 2 to 4. As the subject matter of amended claim 1 is new and inventive the amended dependent claims 2-4 are as well.

The subject matter of claims 1 to 4 is industrially applicable.

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VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Amended claims 1 to 4 do not meet the requirements of Rule 6.2 (b) PCT according to which reference signs should be inserted in parentheses in the claims; this applies to both the preamble and the characterising portion.

03 JUNE 2005

Claims

1. A drawer guide rail assembly mounted for a guided and stabilized in and out movement with respect to a furniture member comprising:
a fixed guide for attachment to an inner sidewall of said furniture member and having at least one running surface, wherein the running surface is a T-shaped flange extending upwards;
an intermediate pull out channel capable of sliding back and forth relative to said fixed guide on said running surface of said fixed guide, the upper surface of said intermediate pull out channel section providing a second running surface;
a first roller bearing positioned within said intermediate pull out channel for enabling sliding movement of said intermediate pull out channel on said fixed guide;
an outer pull out channel for attachment to an undersurface of a drawer capable of sliding back and forth on said intermediate pull out channel relative to said intermediate pull out channel;
a second roller bearing positioned within said outer pull out channel for enabling sliding movement of said outer pull out channel on said intermediate pull out channel; and
a stabilizing means detachably positioned between said intermediate pull out channel and said outer pull out channel;
characterized in that said stabilizing means includes a shoulder which is horizontally extended from each side of said stabilizing means to be fitted with said second roller bearing for guiding and stabilizing the movements of said outer pull out channel relative to said intermediate pull out channel.
2. The drawer guide rail assembly as claimed in claim 1, wherein said stabilizing means is in the form of a metal sheet having inclined sides.
3. The drawer guide rail assembly as claimed in claim 2, wherein said stabilizing means having its width wider than the width of said intermediate pull out channel.
4. The drawer guide rail assembly as claimed in claim 3, wherein said stabilizing means includes a protrusion formed at the upper end of said stabilizing means for retaining said second roller bearing in position during movement.